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Pesticides & Toxic Substances Law News for August 2, 2013

Bloomberg **Daily Environment Report™** **BNA**

Air Pollution

[House Science Panel Issues Subpoena Seeking EPA Data Used to Justify Air Rules](#)

The House Science, Space, and Technology Committee subpoenaed the Environmental Protection Agency Aug. 1, seeking data that underpins key scientific air pollution studies evaluating the health effects of fine particulate matter and ozone....

Biotechnology

[Japan Resumes U.S. Wheat Imports](#)

TOKYO—Japan on Aug. 1 will resume imports of U.S. wheat but will subject them to an inspection method for identifying genetically modified organisms, which were found in Oregon-grown wheat in May, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry...

Biotechnology

[Top French Administrative Court Voids Government's Latest Ban on Biotech Maize](#)

WASHINGTON, D.C.—France's highest administrative court, the State Council, on Aug. 1 voided the government's latest ban on Monsanto Co.'s genetically modified maize seed MON810 on grounds that it does not comply...

Budget

[House Markup of EPA, Interior Funding Bill Will Not Resume Until September](#)

The House Appropriations Committee will reconvene in September to continue its markup of its fiscal year 2014 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, according to a statement posted on the committee's website....

Budget

[Senate Proposes Funding Increases for EPA, Interior in Fiscal 2014 Appropriations Bill](#)

Senate Democrats Aug. 1 released a \$30.2 billion draft appropriations bill that would increase funding for the Environmental Protection Agency by approximately \$105 million,



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or 1.25 percent, compared to the pre-sequester fiscal year 2013...

Regulatory Policy

House Approves Legislation to Scrutinize Costs of EPA Environmental Regulations

The House approved legislation Aug. 1 that would prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from issuing final rules estimated to cost more than \$1 billion if the Energy Department determines that the rule would cause significant adverse...

Security

Facilities That Fail to Report Identified Through Cross-Check With EPA Databases

A comparison of Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Homeland Security databases has identified companies that have failed to properly register high-risk facilities, and the companies have now been ordered to provide the...

Security

Obama Signs Executive Order to Boost Data Sharing, Update Chemical Security Rules

President Obama signed an executive order on chemical security Aug. 1 that aims to streamline information sharing, modernize regulations, and establish a federal working group to improve coordination between various governmental entities....

Toxic Substances

Appeal Board Annuls EU Chemicals Agency Order to Provide Data Over Procedural Errors

BRUSSELS—The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) Aug. 1 said its Board of Appeal has annulled a decision requiring German specialty chemical manufacturer Thor GmbH to provide additional information in a REACH registration dossier,...

Toxic Substances

Washington State Proposes to Amend Chemicals on Children's Safe Products List

SEATTLE—The Washington state Department of Ecology has responded to two petitions with a proposal to amend the Reporting List of Chemicals of High Concern to Children by adding one chemical to the list and eliminating another....



Obama Order May Boost Bid For Stricter EPA Fertilizer, Plant Safety Rules

President Obama's new executive order on improving chemical facility security could bolster a push by Democrats, environmentalists and others for EPA to use its existing authority to strengthen regulation of ammonium nitrate fertilizer and other reactive chemicals, and for the agency to take other steps to improve safety at industrial plants.

House GOP Vows To Block CFATS Funds Unless DHS Improves Program

Several House Republicans are threatening to stop funding for the Department of Homeland Security' (DHS) Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program that aims to protect industrial facilities from terrorist attacks unless DHS makes changes to CFATS to address lawmakers' concerns that the program is mismanaged.

Senate Proposal To Boost EPA's FY14 Funding Sets Up Fight With House

Senators have introduced a bipartisan bill to give EPA a modest funding increase of \$600 million in fiscal year 2014, setting up a fight with the House where Republicans are crafting legislation that would cut the agency's budget by \$2.8 billion and impose a host of restrictions blocking EPA from issuing key air, climate and other rules.

EPA Issues Second Draft Ethylene Oxide Study With Stricter Risk Estimate

EPA has released a second draft of its assessment of the cancer risk posed by inhaling ethylene oxide (EtO), providing a slightly stricter risk estimate than a controversial earlier draft that has been under revision since 2007, one of the first Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) studies conducted following EPA's update to its cancer risk guide.

EPA Urges Federal Facilities To Replace Most Mercury Thermometers

EPA is pushing federal facilities to replace their mercury-containing non-ferver thermometers with less toxic versions and is recommending safe disposal methods for existing ones, despite barriers to a phase-out caused by industry and government standards requiring the use of traditional mercury-based thermometers.



CHEMICAL SECURITY:

DHS program weathers more criticism for missing some plants

Jason Plautz, E&E reporter

Published: Friday, August 2, 2013

The Department of Homeland Security yesterday made the case for a multiyear reauthorization of its embattled chemical facility security program, even amid criticism that it has not done enough to identify and protect potentially disastrous sites.

In the aftermath of an explosion at a fertilizer plant in West, Texas, lawmakers expressed skepticism that the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program was doing enough to ensure plants were handling hazardous materials safely.

At a hearing of a House Homeland Security subcommittee, members laid into DHS for failing to identify the West Fertilizer Co. plant and for not working adequately with other agencies to form a complete database of facilities with high levels of harmful materials.

"We can follow a package in the mail by the minute if we send it with UPS or even our own mail service," said Rep. Patrick Meehan (R-Pa.). "And here we're moving huge sums of chemicals and you're telling me you don't know where they are? People just don't get it."

Meehan, chairman of the Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies Subcommittee, said he recognized that the blame for the West incident did not lie entirely with CFATS, since the program is meant to protect against terrorist attacks. But "nobody would deny that better activity ... should have been able to have created enough recognition that somewhere we would have known about this facility."

Homeland Security ranking member Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.) agreed that there needed to be "a sense of urgency on this issue" and that the DHS program could be reformed to place less of a burden on industry to report and craft its own plans.

DHS National Protection and Programs Director David Wulf defended CFATS, saying his team is doing more to work with U.S. EPA and the Labor Department to coordinate on chemical security. The program has authorized 589 security plans and reviewed more than 44,000 preliminary assessments, he said, and that pace has accelerated over the last year.

Wulf also argued for a multiyear reauthorization, saying progress cannot continue without the stability that comes with long-term funding. CFATS has been kept alive with one-year authorizations since being created in 2007, and management problems have dogged previous attempts to secure long-term money.

Recently, three House Republicans, including Homeland Security Chairman Michael McCaul (Texas), said the program "should not continue in its present condition" and said they would not approve a multiyear authorization without specific milestone targets ([E&E Daily](#), July 23).

Wulf also pointed to an executive order issued yesterday that instructs federal agencies to review safety rules and craft new strategies for plants storing hazardous materials ([Greenwire](#), Aug. 1). EPA and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration also have key roles to play in inspecting and assessing risk at chemical facilities.

Still, it's unlikely the executive order will shield CFATS from further criticism, despite industry support. There have long been complaints about management issues at CFATS.

The Government Accountability Office presented a report yesterday that said it could take DHS seven to nine years to finish its backlog of reviews, even on a recently stepped-up pace. The report also found that a survey of trade associations gave "mixed views" about outreach from regulators, with only three of 11 groups saying communication had been effective.

Several industry officials also said there needs to be more communication with states and local agencies and trade groups to ensure that small facilities are aware of CFATS policy and how to comply with regulations.

Meanwhile, several labor and environmental groups sent a [letter](#) to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy urging her to "make chemical disaster prevention one of the priority initiatives of [her] first 100 days in office."

"We should have solved this years ago," the letter says. "With President Obama's order today, the EPA has a clear mandate to act and an opportunity to do what we have been urging and use its existing authority under the landmark Clean Air Act to require chemical plants to use safer processes and chemicals at thousands of facilities across the country."

The letter was organized by the Coalition to Prevent Chemical Disasters, which contains more than 100 groups including Greenpeace and the BlueGreen Alliance.

CHEMICAL SECURITY:

EPA inspector general raps safety board for investigation backlog

Jason Plautz, E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, August 1, 2013

The Chemical Safety Board is not completing timely investigations and lacks an effective management strategy to tackle the backlog, an audit of the independent agency found.

U.S. EPA's inspector general said in a [report](#) that CSB over the last six years has "steadily fallen behind" its goal of completing "timely, high quality investigations" of chemical incidents, including completing just two of eight planned investigations in 2012.

More prompt investigations will help CSB "better fulfill its mission and improve its ability to ensure that it provides the community and other stakeholders with findings and recommendations to help reduce the occurrence of similar incidents, which would protect human health and the environment," Inspector General Arthur Elkins Jr. wrote.

CSB is an independent agency charged with investigating chemical accidents and issuing recommendations to regulators, including EPA and the Labor Department. There has been increased attention on CSB and its recommendations after a deadly April explosion at a fertilizer plant in West, Texas, and lawmakers have seized on previous CSB reports to recommend federal improvements to chemical safety.

In a response to the IG report, CSB Chairman Rafael Moure-Eraso wrote that the "overwhelming factor in how quickly investigations can be completed is the agency's staffing level and the constraints on the agency's budget," which he said sat at less than \$10.6 million after sequestration cuts.

He also chided the report for focusing on "what we regard as peripheral issues" like staff turnover and organization of case logs.

Elkins did cite a 15 percent investigative staff turnover rate (CSB disputed that number) and "non-collocation of files" in the report, but also said that CSB lacks "defined performance indicators" in annual performance plans to clear the backlog. The board also needs to update its policies over current investigative procedures, the IG said.

Elkins also recommended that CSB develop a closeout plan for investigations that have been open for more than three years and ensure that all ongoing investigation files have the necessary supporting documents.

CSB said it would craft and implement performance indicators and said it had already developed an action plan. The board also said that several of its open investigations -- including the West Fertilizer Co. investigation and a probe into the Deepwater Horizon oil spill -- were lengthy and had been dictated by a mandate to study all incidents with fatalities or by a congressional request.

CHEMICAL SECURITY:

Obama issues executive order to boost safety as lawmakers probe better oversight

Jason Plautz, E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, August 1, 2013

Amid increased scrutiny of the regulation of chemical facilities after the deadly blast in West, Texas, President Obama today instructed federal agencies to review safety rules and craft new strategies for plants storing hazardous materials.

That [executive order](#) will include a review of potential new guidelines to improve storage and handling of ammonium nitrate, the explosive material at the center of the April fertilizer plant explosion.

The blast that killed 14 people brought increased attention to what has been deemed a "patchwork" of federal chemical regulations. In Senate testimony late last month, Chemical Safety Board Chairman Rafael Moure-Eraso said that patchwork "has many large holes" related to ammonium nitrate.

Under the order this morning, the administration would establish a Chemical Facility Safety and Security Working Group aligning U.S. EPA, the Department of Homeland Security and the Labor Department with other federal agencies to better collaborate on facility security. The group would be tasked with creating a "unified federal approach" for identifying and responding to risks at facilities, including improving coordination with state, local and industry groups.

Agencies would also be tasked with identifying additional substances that may need to be covered by federal rules.

Speaking at a House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing this morning, David Wulf, DHS's national protection and programs director, said the executive order would "complement many individual efforts" among agencies to step up facility security and would "modernize" the work.

Chemical plant security is a responsibility shared among several federal agencies. EPA's Risk Management Program requires facilities holding hazardous substances to develop a risk assessment plan, implement safety programs and analyze off-site consequences. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration also has separate regulations on hazardous materials and conducts inspections of facilities.

And DHS, through the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program, also plays a role in screening facilities to ensure they are safe from terrorist attacks ([Greenwire](#), July 3).

But the West explosion exposed some of the holes in that network -- the facility had not been inspected by OSHA since 1985 and had not been covered by CFATS. It had been fined by EPA for problems with its risk assessment plan, but it was later revealed that the plant had underreported the amount of its hazardous materials.

In a statement, Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) said the order showed it was possible for the government to "use our mandated oversight role" to "move forward without changing laws to protect our families and communities."

And Rep. Patrick Meehan (R-Pa.), chairman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies, said he was "encouraged" to see the executive order and the focus on "encouraging agencies to share information and provide greater transparency."

DHS program under the microscope

After praising the executive order, House members railed against DHS for what they said were failures to protect and identify facilities under the CFATS program.

Meehan, whose subcommittee called the hearing, said it was "discouraging to learn that although DHS is supposed to be securing facilities that store these chemicals, not only was the [West fertilizer plant] not registered with the department's CFATS program, but they didn't even know of the plant's existence."

"We are five years into this program. We are close to a half billion dollars [spent]," Meehan said. "And five years in, we're beginning to hear about how you may begin to do more?"

Homeland Security ranking member Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.) said there needs to be "a sense of urgency on this issue," adding that the DHS program as constructed places too great a burden on small facilities.

Wulf said CFATS, which has long been criticized by House members, has been doing better in the last year and has improved coordination with EPA and OSHA. To date, he said, CFATS has reviewed more than 44,000 assessments and approved nearly 600 security plans.

The department has "turned a corner" on CFATS, he said, and is "redoubling" its effort to work with state and federal agencies to identify facilities that may be unidentified by the existing program.

CHEMICALS:

Pesticides on decline in the air near Calif. farm towns

Anne C. Mulkern, E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, August 1, 2013

Pesticide levels were down last year in the air of several California farm communities, state test results released yesterday showed.

Air samples taken weekly in Monterey, Kern and San Joaquin counties showed a drop in the amount of pesticide residue that was detectable compared with 2011, according to the state's Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), part of the California EPA.

In 94.5 percent of the analyses, chemicals the state was looking for did not show up in the samples. Another 5.5 percent had trace amounts, and 1.3 percent had quantifiable levels, or concentrations above the smallest amount that can be reliably measured.

Fourteen of the 33 pesticides and five of the pesticide breakdown products that California looks for were not detected at all, the state said in a draft report.

"This is reassuring news for residents," DPR Director Brian Leahy said in a statement. "Our monitoring in 2012 shows that none of the pesticides exceeded their screening levels, indicating a low health risk to the people in these communities."

DPR in 2011 established a monitoring network to sample ambient air regularly for pesticides in the cities of Ripon in San Joaquin County, Salinas in Monterey County and Shafter in Kern County. It set levels that the chemical residues needed to be beneath to protect human health and the environment.

The findings for 2012, which took about seven months to process, showed a slight improvement versus a year earlier. Out of samples taken in 2011, 92.5 percent resulted in no detectable concentrations, 7.5 percent had trace levels and 3 percent had quantifiable amounts.

"It could be simply that people are complying more with our regulations," said Charlotte Fadipe, a

spokeswoman at CalEPA. It also could be that farmers and others are using less pesticide, or the weather could play a role, she said.

CalEPA also released results of its tests for methyl bromide that are done as part of an agreement to resolve a complaint under Title VI of the U.S. Civil Rights Act.

A petition filed in 1999 against U.S. EPA alleged that the agency had discriminated against Latino schoolchildren when it approved the registration renewal of methyl bromide.

The fumigant frequently is used on strawberry crops. A 2001 study by DPR found high levels of the pesticide in air samples taken at elementary schools in Watsonville.

The petition against U.S. EPA affected CalEPA, Fadipe said. The state disagreed with the complaint but to settle the issue agreed to take two steps, she said. The agency pledged to extend its testing for methyl bromide through 2013 instead of ending it in October 2011. It also said it would include in test locations a community near Watsonville, adding it to Salinas, Shasta, Ripon, Santa Maria and Oxnard.

For 2012, all measured air concentrations of methyl bromide were less than DPR's regulatory targets or screening level, the state said in a report, "indicating that the restrictions on use of methyl bromide are keeping air concentrations below the health protective targets set by DPR."

"The 2012 concentrations were generally lower than those concentrations detected for the same time periods in 2011," the report added. "The time periods and communities with higher concentrations are consistent with historical use patterns."

AGRICULTURE:

'Fishy food' cars attract stares, promote GMO labeling

Amanda Peterka, E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, August 1, 2013

Nikolas Schiller is used to receiving odd looks as he drives through the streets of Washington, D.C.

In fact, he can't commute to and from work without pedestrians whipping out their smartphones to take pictures, drivers leaning out of their windows at traffic lights to ogle and children's eyes opening wide.

That's because a huge, brightly colored sculpture fusing a golden delicious apple and a goldfish with eyes is bolted to the top of his used black Ford Escort -- which itself has bright pink stripes down its side.

"It's been an interesting experience," said Schiller, a 32-year-old St. Louis native sporting a ponytail, T-shirt and cutoff jeans. "I have a lot of fun driving it around. It brings a lot of joy. I see people's faces smile, light up, point, kids laugh, giggle, people take photos -- it's not like a normal car."



Nikolas Schiller has driven "Goldie" to and from work in Washington, D.C., and will next week embark on a trip across the country to promote GMO labeling. Photos by Amanda Peterka.

Nicknamed "Goldie," it is one of five "fishy food" cars driving around Washington in recent weeks to promote the labeling of genetically modified food. Others carry sculptures of a corn cob, soybean, sugar beet and tomato.

They are the brainchild of the Mintwood Media Collective, a small public relations firm in D.C. that also is active in hemp issues, and local artist César Maxit. Funding was donated by Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps, an organic and fair-trade soap company.

Next week, the cars will depart on a 3,000-mile journey across the country ending in the state of Washington, where a fierce battle is being waged between food companies and anti-GMO activists over a November ballot measure to require the labeling of all foods containing genetically engineered ingredients.

The cars will pass through Pittsburgh; Columbus, Ohio; Indianapolis; Chicago; Denver; and Salt Lake City before reaching their final stop in Seattle. They'll join in protests and press conferences and stop at Monsanto Co.'s global headquarters in Missouri along the way.

For the past several weeks, though, they've been circling D.C. in a bid to raise awareness of the nationwide campaign to label GMOs.

As Schiller passed through the heart of downtown on a recent rush-hour commute home, several people stopped to gawk in the middle of intersections. A young girl with auburn hair pulled her father's arm excitedly, grinning ear to ear.

"It's about making sure that customers and consumers in America are informed about their food purchases," Schiller said as his car passed K Street lobbyists and tourists alike.

The current push to label genetically modified food began about two years ago with a march from Brooklyn, N.Y., to the White House. Supporters argue that genetically engineered foods have not been proved safe for human consumption and that Americans should have the right to choose whether to purchase foods with ingredients that have been genetically modified.

The first of the cars -- Fishy Corn -- made its debut at the 2011 march, driving the entire route. At that time, its sculpture was built of a steel frame wrapped in chicken wire and covered in spray-painted packing tape.

The designs have been updated since then. Their bones still consist of a steel frame wrapped in chicken wire, but they now have a hard fiberglass shell. Goldie was designed in January of this year, with a Ford Escort purchased for the purpose. The sculpture is bolted down through the roof and can be removed if necessary, but it takes about six people to hoist it off the car.

"We use the fishy food as a metaphor. Not all these products have fish genes in them. We use it as a metaphor that there's something fishy about it," said Adam Eiding, an activist shareholder with Monsanto who drove the Fishy Corn car from New York to D.C. in 2011. "If you don't know what it is, it's something fishy. That's why we're winning -- that's common sense."

The battle over labeling hit new heights last year in the months leading up to the November elections in California, where a ballot measure would have required food companies to label all foods that contain genetically engineered ingredients. Food companies and trade organizations poured more than \$40 million into a campaign to oppose the measure, and it was defeated 53 percent to 47 percent.

"Unfortunately, Prop 37 didn't pass but in its failure was quite a large win for awareness building," said Schiller, who first became involved in the campaign at the 2011 march, when he drove a 14-foot box truck that carried supplies for the walkers along the 313-mile route. "All of a sudden Americans were actually talking about that when there hadn't been much talk about it for the last decade."

This year, legislators in more than 20 states introduced measures to require the labeling of GMOs. Connecticut recently became the first state to enact a law requiring food companies to label products with genetically engineered ingredients, though the law is contingent on other nearby states putting in place similar measures.

Supporters see Washington state as the main battleground and are hoping that successful passage of ballot initiative I-522 there will spur action on a national level, either in the form of a national law or Food and Drug Administration action to require labels.

Public polling has shown that American consumers overwhelmingly support the labeling of genetically engineered food. More than 60 countries also carry labeling requirements.

But food manufacturers and biotechnology companies that oppose labeling cite costs and say that such labels would be misleading because the majority of science on genetically modified food has shown them safe for human consumption.

In the wake of the heightened debate over genetically modified organisms and the recent discovery of unapproved genetically engineered wheat in a farm field in Oregon, Monsanto, BASF Corp., Bayer CropScience, Dow AgroSciences, DuPont Co. and Syngenta AG this week have banded together to launch a website, GMOanswers.com, to address health concerns with the foods.

"We oppose current initiatives to mandate labeling of ingredients developed from GM seeds in the absence of any demonstrated risks," Monsanto says. "Such mandatory labeling could imply that food products containing these ingredients are somehow inferior to their conventional or organic counterparts."

'What's this part of?'

In D.C., the "fishy" cars have attracted wide attention on the street and in social media. After circling the city, Schiller will log on to Twitter to see who has posted photos of Goldie -- usually there are several people -- and will respond in the voice of the vehicle.

Although the car is registered in his name -- and is Schiller's first vehicle as an adult -- it will soon be handed over to activists in Washington state until at least after the November elections. He has been making the most of it before that happens and taking long, roundabout routes to and from his office in Adams Morgan, a hip neighborhood in the nation's capital.

During rush hour earlier this week, as Schiller stopped Goldie at a light in downtown D.C., a bicyclist rode up in the bike lane next to the passenger side of the car. He tapped on the window.

"I saw these all over. ... What's this part of?" the man asked.



Over the last several weeks, "Goldie" the car could be seen driving the streets of D.C. The car is part of a campaign to advocate for the labeling of genetically modified food.

Schiller handed the cyclist a palm-sized bright-blue pamphlet fresh off the presses that relays the group's main talking points. The pamphlet was designed by Maxit, the same artist who designed the structures for the tops of the cars.

"Oh, you guys are doing GMO stuff," the cyclist responded. "Very great. I'll pass it on. Thank you."

Encounters like that are not uncommon. Schiller said he normally explains that the car's name is Goldie and she's half goldfish, half golden delicious. While there isn't a genetically engineered apple on the market, the Agriculture Department is currently reviewing an application for one that doesn't turn brown when stored.

Schiller will take the car in for detailing before next week's cross-country drive. The car will be painted with messaging describing its missions. Up through this week, though, it's been unlabeled -- like GMOs, Schiller quipped.

Inquisitive pedestrians are usually receptive to the car's message, he said.

"They give the thumbs up and go like 'I want food labeled' or 'I don't want to eat that stuff,'" he said. "Most people don't realize that they're eating it so there's this disconnect between the knowledge of the food that they're actually eating and the knowledge of the food that they don't want to be eating. Generally, if you're eating a processed food that came out of a box at the supermarket, it likely has a genetically engineered ingredient. But since it doesn't say 'genetically engineered ingredient,' they're not going to know that that's what it is."

Since the 1990s, the Food and Drug Administration has officially held the position that genetically engineered foods do not require special labeling. There are eight genetically modified crops currently available in the United States: corn, soybeans, cotton, canola, alfalfa, sugar beets, papaya and squash.

"The policy states that FDA has no basis for concluding that bioengineered foods differ from other foods in any meaningful or uniform way," FDA says, "or that, as a class, foods developed by the new techniques present any different or greater safety concern than foods developed by traditional plant breeding."

The effects of mandatory labeling would be "positively damaging to public understanding of science," Mark Lynas, an environmentalist who recently shocked the anti-GMO world by reversing his position to one in favor of genetically modified food, said at an event this month in D.C.

Industry, he said, would be better served by a widespread voluntary labeling system for non-GMO products that allows consumers to choose what types of food they wish to buy, he said.

"I think what's a real problem is to have mandatory labeling, which will then totally restructure the whole supply chain, and we'll have knock-on effects, which actually do affect food security in other parts of the world," Lynas said.

In the absence of labeling, Schiller has been growing his own vegetable garden at his house in D.C. for several years and purchasing his groceries from Whole Foods, which announced earlier this year that it would require labels on all GMO products.

He's expecting varied levels of turnout and plenty of stares at the stops along the route to Washington state next week. But he's gotten used to the attention.

"It's one of those things that becomes so normal that you don't realize it's there," Schiller said. "The only thing that kind of reminds you is the fact that you've got people pointing and staring and taking photographs."

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